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TO ALL UNITS AND BASE PERSONNEL

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1. Within a few days, elements of a composite unit designated

as [REDACTED] will arrive at

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[REDACTED] where they will be tenanted during the conduct of their mission.

2. Because this is a hybrid activity, potentially productive of unwarranted speculation, I have chosen this means of advising all base personnel of its arrival, at the same time assuring you that the unit in question has the full support of _____

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3. [REDACTED] is equipped with the Lockheed U-2 single jet, single place aircraft designed and built in consultation with the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics, and monitored during its prototype phase by the USAF. It is a mid-subsonic craft, powered by a Pratt & Whitney J57 engine, with an unusual low wing loading giving it a capability of extended operations at altitudes up to 55,000 feet. Photographs of the vehicle have recently appeared in the magazine AVIATION WEEK, along with a reasonably accurate statement of its mission.

4. While having no combat or tactical significance, the aircraft's performance makes it a suitable and economical vehicle for carrying out high altitude research. Primary objective of the NACA-

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AWS program is the collection of upper atmospheric data, turbulence associated with the jet stream and convective clouds, temperature and wind structures at jet levels, cosmic ray effects, etc. The program is also concerned with the testing of certain new light weight types of meteorological instrumentation under operational environments. This program had its origin at [REDACTED] where numerous studies have been conducted. Concurrent with the limited operation to be conducted from [REDACTED] studies of atmospheric phenomena existing in the northern latitudes are being made from other bases throughout the world.

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5. Since SAC will ultimately benefit from this research program, and is currently a consumer of data being collected, we have accordingly extended a warm welcome to [REDACTED] The Air Weather Service, USAF, will continue to act as the principal military executive agent in support of operations from [REDACTED]

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6. The unit coming to [REDACTED] will be under the command of [REDACTED] USAF, and staffed jointly by other USAF officers and men. In addition, a number of the personnel are civilian members of the USAF, largely technicians. Pilot personnel are civilian flight test personnel of Lockheed, under contract to NACA. Present plans call for the unit to remain at [REDACTED] for a period of 30 days.

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7. Because the program is of considerable importance, and since [REDACTED] will be acting as host, the cooperation of all personnel on this station will be of considerable assistance. It would be appropriate for all pilot personnel to give the U-2 aircraft a wide berth when airborne, since it is not stressed for turbulence such as might be encountered in the direct wash of jet or conventional aircraft at high speeds. The aircraft is also distinguished by high initial rate of climb and an unusually low and flat landing pattern.

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8. I am certain that you will all cooperate in every way possible with the personnel of [REDACTED] during its stay as guests of [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] I wish to alert you of the fact that the area occupied by the [REDACTED] will be off-limits to all base personnel except by invitation as the U-2 is not a military vehicle and is still considered to be experimental by the manufacturer and NACA.

Signed
Base Commander